

The Hindoo Patriot

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RETROSPECT OF 1888.

THE curtain has dropped over another year. The year 1888 had an inauspicious beginning. When it opened we were on the eve of a war with Tibet. The subject of our relations with that country had come to notice in 1886 by the frustration of the Mission assembled at Darjeeling which was to open negotiations at Lhasa for the facilitation of trade and intercourse between the two countries. A body of Tibetans having entered the territory of the Raja of Sikkim and established themselves in a fortified position commanding the main road in order to resist the Macaulay Mission, six months' time had been given to the Chinese Government in August 1887, at their request, in order to enable them to bring pressure to bear upon the authorities at Lhasa for the withdrawal of their troops from Sikkim. This period of grace expired on the midnight of the 15th March last; and as the Tibetan troops did not clear out of Lingtu, the Sikkim Field Force left Pedong on the morning of the 6th under the command of General Graham. Lingtu was carried early in April; but the Tibetans did not at once submit. They assembled in summer in large numbers in the Passes from which also they were driven without much difficulty. This was very thoroughly done, the pursuit being carried across the frontier. Negotiations were afterwards opened up with the Chinese officials in Tibet, and these were still in progress when the year closed. While General Graham was engaged in his brief invasion of Tibet, the Black Mountain Expedition set out from Abbottabad under the command of General MacQueen. Our troops at first encountered some resistance from the tribes against whom their operations were directed. After a good deal of skirmishing the objects of the expedition which were to punish the tribes for a series of outrages and acts of aggression on British subjects and to obtain a complete survey of the country, were fully accomplished. The conclusion of the military operations saw the tribes against whom they were directed utterly crushed and broken, their chief villages burnt, their crops destroyed, and their leader a fugitive in hiding. The various *jirgahs* came in and made their submission, paying the fines exacted from them. Contingents from the Kashmir Army and the Khyber Rifles were employed on the Black Mountain, and the work performed by them was favourably spoken of by the General in command. Besides the military operations in Sikkim and on the Hazara border, small expeditions were undertaken during the past year in three directions in the frontier districts of Upper Burma and another against the Lushais of the Chittagong Hills. The three expeditions in Upper Burma, notwithstanding the much-vaunted pacification of the Province, were represented as urgently needed, but the public were told that they would not likely tax the military resources at General White's command to any appreciable extent. The Lushai Expedition had not commenced its work when the year closed.

The surrender of the Afghan Sirdar Ayub Khan to General Maclean, the British Agent at Meshed, towards the close of 1887 had removed a serious source of danger to the maintenance of peace in Afghanistan. Ayub and his followers were brought over to India and safely interned at Rawal Pindi. But although the most powerful and dreaded rival of Abdur Rahman was thus placed beyond the possibility of committing any mischief, the Amir was not secure from molestation. His cousin, Ishak Khan, who had crossed the Oxus with him in the summer of 1880, and whom he had made Governor of Afghan Turkistan on his accession to the throne of Kabul, raised the standard of rebellion in the north of the Hindu Kush. The Amir, however, succeeded in promptly suppressing the rebellion and Ishak Khan fled to Kerki where he was cordially received by the Amir of Bokhara. The Ghilzais showed some restlessness, but they did not actually fight. There was a

rising among the Shinwaris goaded to revolt by the oppressive exactions of Abdur Rahman; but the Afghan Commander-in-chief put it down without much difficulty. The Amir earnestly wished to establish his authority over the independent Khanates of Bajawar, Dir and Swat; but the rebellion of Ishak Khan prevented his taking any active steps in that direction. Towards the close of 1887 the long-protracted negotiations on the Kham-i-Ab question between England and Russia had been brought to a peaceful termination, the latter having agreed to abandon her claim to the Khoja Saleh district in consideration of a strip of pasture land in the Khusk Valley; and the final settlement thus concluded had been embodied in a Protocol. During the past year Major Yates was deputed by the British Government to give effect to the new arrangement. The Major proceeded to the spot and in concert with the Russian Commissioner rectified the boundary line which had been previously laid down in the Khusk Valley. The business was smoothly and satisfactorily performed, no further difficulty having been raised on either side. Russia was, as usual, very active in Central Asia. The past year witnessed the extension of the Transcaspian Railway to Samarcand, the old capital of Tamerlane. The Emperor of Russia paid a visit to Baku, where His Majesty received a deputation from the Turkoman Chiefs of Merv. On the return journey from the Caucasus the Russian Imperial family narrowly escaped death from a serious railway accident. The Shah of Persia opened the Karun River to trade—a measure which Russia strongly resented and regarded as a great triumph for England. Lord Salisbury congratulated Sir Henry Wolff on this successful stroke of diplomacy, but scarcely had the ink with which these congratulations were recorded become dry when the free trade concession made by the Shah was whittled down its lowest limits. The outcome of the incident proved conclusively the complete supremacy of Russian influence in Persia.

In Europe all the States, as usual, kept themselves armed to the teeth as before and were fully prepared to meet the worst. But fortunately the year passed away without the outbreak of any war on the continent. Towards its close the English Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs was enabled to publicly declare that the situation in Europe looked more peaceful than it had done within the last three years. The death of Emperor William I of Germany, the greatest of the reigning monarchs of Europe, and the accession of his peace-loving son Frederick to the Imperial throne assured the peace of the continent for a time. But unfortunately the Emperor Frederick died after only a few months' reign, and was succeeded by his son William. The bellicose utterances of the Emperor William II naturally created much anxiety throughout Europe. His Majesty commenced his reign by paying a visit to the White Czar; and although what passed at the meeting of the two Emperors did not transpire, it was generally believed it had reference to the Bulgarian question. But shortly afterwards Prince Bismarck received cordially Signor Crispi, the Italian Premier and Count Kalnoky, the Austrian Chancellor, at Friedrichsruh. This showed clearly that whatever may have been the meaning of Germany's extraordinary complaisance towards Russia at the time of Emperor William's accession, she was at any rate resolved on a strict adherence to the Triple Alliance. The correctness of this view was placed beyond the shadow of a doubt by the cordiality of the meeting between the Emperors of Germany and Austria, which took place at Vienna in the autumn. That meeting convinced the public that Prince Bismarck never really intended that the young Emperor's visit to the Russian capital should be any thing more than a mere device to tickle the vanity of the Czar and frustrate the efforts of those who were working for a Russo-French Alliance. Emperor William also paid a visit to the King of Italy at Rome. The Triple Alliance being thus fully re-affirmed, Italy showed complete indifference to the susceptibilities of France in regard to the question of the capitulations at Massowah. It became evident that so long as the Germano-Italo-Austrian league remained intact, there was no chance of any approximation between Russia and France, or of

the Republic essaying any disturbance of the peace of Europe. The Emperor of Austria's severe rebuke to the Bishop of Strossmayer for invoking the blessing of Heaven upon Russia's world-wide mission caused much excitement in the latter country, but the Emperor's utterance was generally approved. England entered into an agreement with Germany in regard to the East African slave-trade and promised to co-operate with that Power and France in establishing such a blockade as would prevent the carrying on of the trade by sea. But a strong suspicion prevailed among the British public that Germany's anxiety for the suppression of the slave-trade was dictated to a large extent by a desire to punish the natives who had resisted the operations of the German East African Company, and generally to re-establish German prestige in that quarter of the globe. The publication of the late Emperor Frederick's Diary produced a profound sensation in Germany, as it was stated therein that the foundation of the modern German Empire was due to the Emperor Frederick's exertions, notwithstanding the opposition of Prince Bismarck and reluctance on the part of Emperor William I. Last year a fresh stage in the Eastern question was reached by the opening of the new International Railway to Constantinople through Pesth and Sofia. After 19 years of incubation this great work was accomplished, and it established direct communication between Paris and the Turkish capital. The earlier portion of the past year witnessed the fall of General Boulanger, the hero of 1887. But the apostle of *reclame* survived failure and ridicule and towards the close of the year General Boulanger was the subject of no less than four imposing demonstrations and he again became a force in French politics.

During the past year there were wars and disturbances in various parts of Africa, in Abyssinia, in the Soudan, in Zanzibar and in Zululand. The Queen of England had undertaken the role of a peace-maker between Italy and King John of Abyssinia and sent out a Mission to the latter in the autumn of 1887 with a view to effect an amicable settlement. The Mission, however, proved a failure. Italy then declared war against Abyssinia and sent out an expedition to Massowah. The Abyssinian garrison being unable to make a long stand against the disciplined troops from Rome, capitulated and sought for peace and a treaty was concluded between the two countries. Towards the end of 1887 events had occurred in the Soudan which showed how unstable was the peace which it was thought had been secured by the military operations undertaken during Mr. Gladstone's Second Administration. In the spring of last year Suakim was boldly attacked by the Dervishes, and in the autumn the rebels in strong force closed round that town and intercepted its water-supply. Towards the close of the year it was reported that Emin Pasha and Stanley had fallen into the hands of the Mahdists. Another report was spread to the effect that Stanley reached Bonalya in August last, having left Emin Pasha in May previous and that the expedition was well and wanted nothing. Shortly before Christmas General Grenfell attacked the rebel positions at Suakim and carried them. There was an insurrection in Zanzibar. The hostile attitude of the natives compelled the Germans to abandon all stations along the coast and flee to Zanzibar town. The insurgents seized one of the Sultan's steamers, which, however, they afterwards released. A German expedition was formed with the object of proceeding to the relief of Emin Pasha, but Prince Bismarck stopped it, as he feared the hostility of the natives. The rising of the chiefs in Zululand was promptly suppressed. A British protectorate was established over the territories of the North Borneo Company, of the Raja Brooke of Sarawak and of the Sultan of Brunei. England annexed all that part of New Guinea which had before been under her protection and erected it into a Crown Colony. The French annexed the Polynesian group known as the Marquesas Islands which had for nearly a half century been under the protection of France, and England, not to be behindhand, proclaimed a protectorate over the Harvey group as also over the Savage Island. The Canadian Fisheries Treaty negotiated by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain was rejected by the Government of the United States, where the most impor-

tant Presidential contest of the present generation was waged with more than usual vigour resulting in the election of General Benjamin Harrison, the Republican candidate. The contest was marked by an incident which disturbed the harmonious relations existing between England and the United States. Lord Sackville, the British Ambassador at Washington having acted indiscreetly in advising a correspondent who had addressed him on the subject to vote for the re-election President Cleveland, his Lordship's passports were handed to him by Secretary Bayard. The discourteous way in which the United States Government acted towards Lord Sackville caused much indignation in England and the treatment accorded to his Lordship was regarded as an affront to the Queen's representative.

INDIA IN ENGLAND.

The attention of the British public being absorbed with the Irish question, Indian affairs did not receive much attention in Parliament during the past year. The number of debates upon Indian questions was rather small. Early in the Session Mr. John Slagg raised a discussion upon the financial situation in India. He moved a resolution condemning the frontier policy of the Indian Government; but unfortunately he mixed up with this subject another question which had nothing to do with it. Two questions of very great importance—the Indian frontier policy and the Indian liquor traffic—which had not the remotest connection with one another, were laid before the House in an extremely confused manner. But although Mr. Slagg committed a great mistake by moving his resolution in the shape in which it was introduced, he rendered a great service to the Indian tax-payer by drawing the attention of the House of Commons to the fact, that our frontier expenditure was producing grave financial difficulties. The debate was chiefly valuable for the remarkable speech which it elicited from Lord Randolph Churchill. His Lordship urged with great force that the financial situation in India ought to receive without delay the careful and concentrated attention of Parliament. He pointed out that not only had the Indian Government eaten up the famine insurance fund, but had imposed additional burdens upon the people. Lord Randolph did not hesitate to say that the Government of India had got to the end of its taxation, and that the Finance Minister had nowhere to look for increased revenue. His lordship remarked with perfect justice that as the Indian Government had got absolutely to the end of its resources it was only in the enforcement of rigid economy that it could find the means of meeting its constantly growing expenditure. But then, the extravagances of the Government of India, as Sir George Campbell pertinently observed in the course of the debate, are not to be easily checked. Mr. Slagg's resolution was ultimately negatived by a large majority. In discussing Mr. McLaren's motion condemning the operation of the Contagious Disease Acts in India, the House of Commons agreed without a division that the obnoxious measure should be removed without delay from the Indian Statute book. The alleged grievances of the European members of the Indian Uncovenanted Service were brought to the notice of Parliament through the exertions of Mr. H. S. King and Sir Roper Lethbridge. The former gentleman wanted the House of Commons to declare that Uncovenanted European officers should on their retirement from the Service, be entitled to have their pensions paid in sterling instead of in rupees. But Sir John Gorst, the Under-Secretary of State for India, conclusively proved that the claim advanced by Mr. King's clients was utterly untenable. Sir John pointed out that formerly retired Uncovenanted officers could not have their pensions paid in England. They had to employ an Agent in India to draw the pensions and remit the money. When Government, in 1863, conceded to these officers the privilege of drawing their pensions in England, the concession was made on the distinct understanding that their pensions would be paid at the official rate of exchange. Mr. King's motion was, after an animated debate, rejected by 166 to 55 votes. Sir Roper Lethbridge laid the case of Mr. "Patna" Tayler before

Parliament and moved for the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to enquire into it. Sir John Gorst did not find much difficulty in showing that Mr. Tayler, as Commissioner of Patna at the commencement of the Mutiny, had committed great blunders; and that, considering the cruelties and the grave indiscretions of which he was guilty, the punishment inflicted on him fell far short of his offence. A bare statement of the facts connected with Mr. Tayler's official career during the early days of the Mutiny was sufficient to convince the House that no injustice had been done to him. Sir Roper Lethbridge's motion was accordingly rejected by an overwhelming majority, only 20 voting for it, while 164 voted against it. The Indian Budget was, as usual, presented to Parliament during the closing hours of the Session. Sir John Gorst told the House of Commons that the deficit in the Indian accounts need not cause any anxiety, inasmuch as it was entirely due to special expenditure connected with defence works and Burma. Mr. Charles Bradlaugh suggested that a Commission, including Natives, be appointed to enquire into the administration of India, with power to take evidence both in England and India. Mr. J. M. Maclean, however, deprecated the appointment on the ground that it would tend to plunge India into prolonged and incessant political agitation. Sir William Plowden moved an amendment urging that Natives should be freely admitted to the highest posts in India with a view to economy and that the separate military commands of Madras and Bombay should be suppressed. On a division Sir William Plowden's amendment was rejected by 105 to 36 votes and the usual resolution adopting the Budget was passed. The Deccan Mining Scandals having come to the knowledge of the House of Commons, a Select Committee of the House was appointed under the presidency of Sir Henry James to enquire into the same. But the scope of the inquiry entrusted to the Committee was so restricted that no result worth the name was expected from its labours. The Committee did not at all enter into the circumstances connected with the origin of the Mining Concession, nor did it examine the persons who were acquainted with the same. This being the case, the Report of the Committee was extremely disappointing and the whole thing ended in smoke. In the House of Lords there was not a single regular debate upon Indian affairs during the past year. Lord Stanley of Alderley, however, brought the case of the poor girl, Budhia, to the notice of his brother peers. His Lordship briefly stated the circumstance under which Mr. Kirkwood had ordered the examination of the girl, who was complainant in a case of theft of her property by a man recently released from jail after three years' imprisonment. Lord Stanley also referred to the exploits of Mr. Kirkwood at Chittagong in 1876 and asked the Secretary of State what redress he would give to the poor girl for the outrage which had been inflicted on her. His Lordship appealed to Lord Cross not to put too great strain upon his personal popularity by refusing to enquire into matters like these, and to rely more upon his unassisted judgment, and less upon that of Members of his Council. A Bill having for its object the extension of the jurisdiction of the Allahabad High Court to Oudh was introduced; but it was afterwards withdrawn.

The interest which Indian affairs excited in England outside Parliament during the past year was, indeed, very remarkable. Indian questions were frequently discussed with great ability both in the periodical Press and on the platform; and in this noble work Sir William Hunter took the lead. His admirable articles on the National Congress in the *Times* made the British public acquainted with the aims and objects of this great national movement. Sir William satisfactorily accounted for the origin of the Congress and impartially examined its proposals. He also contributed a remarkable article on "The Present Problem in India" to the pages of the *Contemporary Review*. This article was a powerful plea for justice to the people of India in the matter of their higher employment in the public service in accordance with the generous policy announced in Her Gracious Majesty's Proclama-

tion of 1858. The arguments which Sir William adduced to establish the position taken up by him were simply unanswerable. Not only did he contribute articles on Indian questions to the periodical Press, but he also lectured on Indian subjects before large audiences. His addresses on "Recent Movements in India" and on "The New Industrial Era in India" were very able and thoughtful. In the first address which was delivered before the National Indian Association, Sir William Hunter appealed to Englishmen to avoid, in dealing with India, the mistakes that have reduced Ireland to its present position and to approach the important questions now arising in India with a quickened conscience, and with a steadier resolve to find out what is right and to do it. In his lecture on "The New Industrial Era in India," read before the Royal Colonial Institute, Sir William Hunter showed that during the present generation India had appeared in a new character in the markets of the world; and that she was taking up a position which is not without its perils. He further pointed out that in the last century when Indian cottons competed with English fabrics in England, prohibitive restrictions were laid upon the import of Indian cottons into Great Britain, but that in the present century when English piece-goods were being threatened by the Indian mills, the Indian Customs tariff had been more than once dealt with in the interests, not of the Indian revenue, but of the English manufacturer. Mr. Herbert Gladstone delivered a very interesting lecture on "The English in India." He reminded the electors of Great Britain and Ireland that upon them rested the ultimate responsibility for the welfare of the people of India, and remarked that the time had come when the educated Native classes should have more important responsibilities placed upon them or at least should be allowed to hold an acknowledged representative position for the purpose of suggestion and criticism in the administration of affairs. Mr. T. H. Thornton, lately a Judge in the Lahore Chief Court, read an admirable paper on "The Evils of Canal Irrigation and their Remedy" before the Society of Arts. Mr. Thornton proved to demonstration that canal irrigation had caused extensive impoverishment of soil and deterioration of produce in Upper India; and that it has extended and intensified malaria to the serious detriment of the health and physique of the people. This subject was followed up by Dr. Bellew, late Sanitary Commissioner in the Punjab, in a subsequent lecture. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee and Mr. Eardley Norton delivered a number of most interesting addresses at various places, in order to excite the interest of the electors of Great Britain in Indian affairs. Through their exertions an Indian Political Agency was established in London and placed under Mr. William Digby. They also succeeded in persuading Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, the junior member for Northampton, to undertake the responsibilities of "Member for India" in the House of Commons. To ratify this arrangement, a grand Indian demonstration was held at Northampton, and the electors of the borough pledged themselves to do all that lay in their power to redress the grievances of the people of India and to promote the reforms proposed by the National Congress. Sir Richard Garth, the late Chief Justice of Bengal, published a remarkable pamphlet entitled "A Few Plain Truths about India," in which that eminent Conservative lawyer strongly supported some of the reforms put forward by the National Congress. Sir Samuel Baker and Mr. Stephen Wheeler contributed articles on Indian political subjects to English magazines; but they merely echoed the narrow and illiberal views which prevail in Anglo-Indian officialdom. Lord Cross appointed a small Committee composed of Mr. Godley, the permanent Under-Secretary at the India Office and two or three members of the Indian Council, to enquire into the Home charges of the Government of India. Although the Committee was precluded from dealing with important questions of principle, still it was felt that its labours would be productive of some good if it looked carefully into details with a determination to cut down all expenditure not absolutely indispensable. The Anglo-Indian residents in England started an Association

a view to further the objects of the Bimetallic League. Without pledging itself to the doctrines of bimetalism or to the advocacy of the double standard as a necessity, the Association declared its intention to support any reasonable scheme which would give a common monetary standard to India and England. The Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk, Revenue Minister of Hyderabad, who was deputed on special duty to England in connection with the enquiry into the Deccan Mining Scandals, managed to procure an interview with Mr. W. E. Gladstone and tried to obtain from him an expression of his views on some of the most important questions which deeply concern the Indian Mussulmans. The Grand Old Man carefully avoided committing himself to any definite expression of opinion. He however, bluntly told his interviewer who had sought to elicit from him a declaration against the Indian National Congress movement, that all legitimate and reasonable efforts of the people to represent their requirements to Government and to improve their condition commanded his warmest sympathy. Mr. Dadabhai Nowroji's candidature for the Holborn Division of Finsbury made Lord Salisbury lose his temper and the Prime Minister of England publicly called Mr. Nawroji "a black man." Mr. Gladstone severely reprimanded him for the use of such contemptuous language towards the people of India, and the protest elicited an explanation from the Prime Minister, who denied that the use of the term "black man" was a contemptuous denunciation of the people of India. Several distinguished English noblemen and gentlemen, a Russian Prince, the Grand Duke Alexander and the Grand Duke and Duchess of Oldenburgh visited India towards the close of the year.

PERSONNEL OF GOVERNMENT.

The changes in the personnel of the Indian Government during the past year, with one or two exceptions, were few and unimportant. The exceptions we refer to were the retirements of Lord Dufferin from the Viceroyalty and of Sir Charles Aitchison from the Home Ministership. At the beginning of the year it was unexpectedly announced that Lord Dufferin would lay down his exalted office towards its close and that the Marquis of Lansdowne, Governor-General of Canada, would succeed him in the Viceroyalty. Lord Lansdowne's selection for the highest and most important office under the British Crown outside the United Kingdom was generally approved by our countrymen. His Lordship had for three months been Parliamentary Under-Secretary for India in Mr. Gladstone's Second administration; and during that short period he had the advantage of serving under the Marquis of Hartington. Lord Lansdowne's first public utterances on India tended to confirm the favourable impression which had been created by the news of his appointment. On his return from Canada in the summer he received a series of entertainments which furnished him with opportunities for telling the public what he thought of the responsibilities imposed upon him by his acceptance of the Indian Viceroyalty and how he meant to discharge them. In replying to the address presented to him by the Indian gentlemen residing in England in Lord Northbrook's house, Lord Lansdowne declared in emphatic terms that a great change had come over India and that the supremacy of the British Crown would now rest more and more upon the sympathy and good will of the people committed to its charge, and less and less upon the mere exhibition of physical force. His Lordship also recognised the desirability of governing India in accordance with "the spirit of the age." Lord Lansdowne was most warmly received at Bombay on his landing on the shores of India, and his Lordship took over charge of his exalted office on the 10th of December. Shortly afterwards deputations from the various public bodies waited upon His Excellency to present addresses of welcome and he returned graceful replies to them, which augured well for the success of his rule. The appointment of Mr. Hutchins to the Home Ministership of the Viceroy's Executive Council in succession to Sir Charles Aitchison handed over the civil administration of the entire Bengal Presidency and Burma to the unsympathetic control of a Madras Civilian. Sir David Barbour returned from Eng-

land towards the close of the year and relieved Mr. Westland of the charge of the financial portfolio. There were some changes in the Executive Councils of Madras and Bombay owing to the elevation of Mr. Hutchins to the Supreme Council and to the departure of Sir Raymond West on leave. Mr. Stokes was permanently appointed to the Madras Council, while Mr. Naylor acted for Sir Raymond during the latter's absence from India. The coveted first-class Residencies at Indore, Hyderabad and Mysore, which are regarded as prize appointments changed hands during the past year. On Sir Lepel Griffin's departure on leave Mr. Henvey was appointed as Governor-General's Agent for Central India, and Mr. Howell was selected to act for Mr. Cordery at the Nizam's Court. Sir Charles Bernard having retired from the Service, Colonel Sir Oliver St. John was selected to succeed him at Mysore. Three new members—Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir Archibald Alison and Sir Charles Turner—were appointed to the Secretary of State's Council during the past year.

FINANCIAL.

The financial position of the Empire naturally occupied a good deal of public attention during the past year. Early in the year it was announced that the deficit in the forthcoming Budget would exceed two crores of rupees and measures were at once adopted to meet it. The Salt duty was raised to the uniform rate of Rs. 2-8-0 per maund throughout continental India and to one rupee per maund in Lower Burma. An import duty was also imposed upon petroleum. As these measures were carried out before the presentation of the regular Budget, the interest in the Financial Statement for 1888-89 was thereby very much discounted. The Budget was for the sixth time in succession published in the form of a Minute by the Finance Minister. It was, indeed, the most melancholy and disheartening document issued by the Government of India since the introduction of the Budget system, even although the Finance Minister was able to show a small surplus. Notwithstanding an increase under several heads of revenue, the Government was not able to make the two ends meet without imposing additional burdens upon the people. The Report of the Finance Committee was published during the past year. Although the Committee did not deal with any great questions of principles the carrying out of the proposals made by them is expected to result in a large saving of expenditure. The proposal of the Committee for the abolition of the Calcutta Mint was considered and disposed of last year, and the Government of India rightly decided to retain that useful institution. One of the noteworthy measures of economy resolved upon last year in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Committee was the abolition of the Coronership of Madras, which caused a saving of about Rs. 9,000 per annum. The Government of India finally determined to abandon the Stock-Note scheme after having given it a fair trial. This step which should have been taken long ago had apparently been deferred till the departure of its author, Sir Theodore Hope, from the country. During the past year the Government of India at the instance of the Secretary of State, considered the question of revising the Provincial Contracts. Lord Cross, taking into consideration the unsatisfactory financial position of the Empire, directed that some system should be arranged by which the Government of India, as occasion demanded, should have it in its power to announce to the Provincial Government the extent to which in each case it had become necessary to modify the normal arrangements in order to meet the requirements of the Imperial Treasury, leaving it to the Provincial Governments to readjust their revenue and expenditure in the best way they could. The new policy aimed at placing the Provincial resources absolutely at the disposal of the Imperial Government and at reducing the decentralization system into a mere farce. Mr. James Westland, on being relieved of the Finance Ministership, was placed on special duty to make arrangements for giving effect to the views of the Secretary of State, and under his presidency a Conference on Provincial Finance met in Calcutta during the closing

weeks of the year. The most important financial event of the past year was the publication of the Report of the Currency Commission which had sat in England for three years. The Commissioners as a body held that the permanent establishment of a legally fixed ratio between gold and silver was practicable and a majority of them strongly recommended that England should take steps to secure international bimetalism.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Imperial Legislative mill was fairly active during the past year, and several important measures were either passed or introduced into the Council. Early in the year the Imprisonment for Debts Bill was added to the Statute-book. This measure as originally introduced by Mr. Ilbert had been intended only for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, but it was altered so by the Select Committee as to make it applicable to the whole of British India, and the new Bill practically abolishing imprisonment for debt throughout the country was hurried through the Council. A Bill for amending the Civil Procedure Code of 1882 and the Limitation and Registration Acts of 1877, was passed; but the measure was not as comprehensive and exhaustive as the circumstances of the case demanded. The House of Commons having expressed an opinion that the Contagious Diseases Acts should be removed from the Indian Statute-book, Act XIV. of 1868 which applied to the civil population was repealed. The Viceroy having made up his mind to give his assent to the Bombay and Calcutta Municipal Bills it was found necessary to pass an Act for supplementing certain provisions of those Bills. This necessity arose from the fact that the Calcutta Municipal Bill as passed was *ultra vires* and that both the Calcutta and Bombay Municipal Bills had conferred jurisdiction in certain municipal matters on Presidency Magistrates and Small Cause Courts, when the Local Councils had no power to amend Acts passed by the Supreme Council. As it was necessary to make further provision for the administration of the estate of the late ex-King of Oudh, a Bill was passed for facilitating through the Governor-General's Agent, the realization and distribution of His Majesty's property. With a view to reduce the work of the Division Courts and of the Chief Court of the Punjab, a Bill to amend the Punjab Courts Act was carried in hot haste through the Council—a measure which imposed serious restrictions on the right of appeal. Of the Bills introduced into the Council during the year the most important were the Cantonment Bill, the Railways Bill and the Merchandise Marks Bill. The main object of the Cantonments Bill was to remove the difficulty said to be experienced by military officers in getting house accommodation near cantonments. The Railway Bill for the introduction of which Sir Theodore Hope had obtained leave four years ago, sought to amend and consolidate the Railway Laws of India. The Merchandise Marks Bill proposed to bring the law of India relating to fraudulent marks on merchandise into accord with that of England. It was based on the sound principle that no man has a right for the purpose of deceiving purchasers, to palm off upon them an article other than that which they believed they were contracting to buy.

The most important measures passed by the Local Legislative Councils during the past year were the Calcutta and Bombay Municipal Bills. In the Bengal Council, Dr. Guru Das Bannerji and Babu Kalinath Mitter tried their best to deprive the Calcutta Municipal Bill of some of its most objectionable features; but their efforts proved unsuccessful, and almost all the important amendments moved by them were negatived by the standing official majority aided by the representatives of the trading and commercial classes. The Bombay Municipal Bill was, however, considerably modified before it was passed into law, so much so that it was accepted by the Native members of the Council. The Legislative Council of the Western Presidency also passed a Bill constituting a Port Trust for Aden, and the Bill to amend the Guzerat and Kattiwar Talukdari Revenue Acts. The Madras Council passed during the past year some useful measures—such as Local Authorities Loan Act; Places

of Public Resort Act; and the Madras City Police Act. Bills were also introduced to amend the Madras Jails Act and the Madras Municipal Act. The North-West Provinces Council, as might have been expected, did nothing during the past year to justify its existence.

POLITICAL.

The most important political question which engaged the attention of the Government of India during the past year was the re-organisation of the armies of the Native States. It had arisen out of the magnificent offer made by the Nizam of Hyderabad—which was followed by others from the various Native Princes—as a free gift to the Government of India for the purpose of strengthening the defences of the North-Western Frontier against a possible Russian invasion. The Government rightly decided to take practical measures for giving effect to the loyal desire of the feudatory chiefs to assist in the defence of the Empire, and a scheme was worked out during the past year. This scheme was appropriately announced and inaugurated at Patiala which Lord Dufferin visited in the course of his autumn tour; and it was generally approved by the public. The late Viceroy stated that in order to help the feudatory Chiefs in setting on foot and maintaining the troops selected for service, a few British officers would be appointed as advisers and inspectors, and that capable Native drill-instructors would also be lent to the States from the Native Regiments in the British Service. The inauguration of this scheme marked an era in the history of the relations of the Government of India with the feudatory Chiefs. The past year witnessed the establishment of a Legislative Council in Travancore, which has always been regarded as a model Native State. It was also proposed to establish a Consultative Council in that State to meet once a year for discussing the Budget. The affairs of Hyderabad, Gwalior, Kashmir, Bhopal and Rewah received a good deal of public attention during the past year. The scandalous proceedings of Mr. Cordery in connection with the Mining Concession were thoroughly exposed, and he was compelled to retire from the service. Abdul Haq was made to disgorge the greater portion of his *loot* from the said concession, and he left Hyderabad in disgrace. These startling disclosures made the position of Colonel Marshall as Private Secretary and Adviser to the Nizam quite untenable, and towards the close of the year he resigned his post and went home on furlough. The death of Sir Gunput Rao Khudkey, the President of the Gwalior Council of Regency, having deprived that State of the services of an experienced administrator. Bapu Saheb Jadoo, the maternal grandfather of the young Chief, was appointed to succeed, Sir Gunpat, and His Highness's mother was made Regent of the State during his minority. In Kashmir the state of things went from bad to worse at the beginning of the past year, owing to the mismanagement of the Dewan Luchman Das, who had been forced upon the Maharaja as his Prime Minister. His Highness, however, at last mustered sufficient courage to send the Dewan away and to appoint his youngest brother Prince Amar Singh as Prime Minister. But although the Maharaja dismissed Luchman Das, the Foreign Office did not promptly remove his patron and supporter, Mr. Trevor Plowden. The Resident was, however, ultimately transferred and succeeded by Colonel Parry Nisbet. The affairs of Bhopal came under the consideration of the Government of India during the past year, and Lord Dufferin acceded to the Begum's wish to try again a Mahomedan Minister. The fulfilment of Her Highness's wish involved the removal of Colonel Ward from Bhopal, and he was succeeded by Munshi Imtiaz Ali of Lucknow. The late Viceroy, however, publicly expressed his approval of Sir Lepel Griffin's high-handed proceedings in Bhopal. These proceedings having been thoroughly exposed in the columns of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Sir Lepel Griffin asked the Government of India to criminally prosecute that paper. The Foreign Office did not comply with Sir Lepel's request, but it gave him a certificate stating that the charges brought against him were unfounded, and with that certificate Sir Lepel left India, though he protested against the decision of the Govern-

ment of India. It was, however, generally believed that as a result of the Viceroy's personal examination into the Bhopal case, Sir Lepel Griffin's contemplated appointment to the Hyderabad Residency was cancelled, and Sir Lepel abandoned his intention to return to India. Accusations were also brought against Major Barr, Superintendent of Rewah, but the Foreign Office gave no heed to them. It had been proposed to send a British Mission to Kabul; but the proposal was not carried out. Mr. Udny was sent patched to the Kurram Valley for settling on the spots the disputes between the Turis and the Ameer's subjects, but his mission proved a failure, the British and Afghan Commissioners having found that there was no chance of settling the many conflicting claims put forward.

ADMINISTRATIVE.

In the last year of his Viceroyalty Lord Dufferin dealt with several important questions connected with the internal administration of the country. Early in the year the Public Service Commission submitted their report in which they made many important recommendations in regard to every branch of the public service, which they had been asked to consider. The Commissioners having proposed the abolition of the Statutory Civil Service that proposal was generally condemned. The Government of India considered the proposals of the Commission and forwarded their recommendations to the Secretary of State. But as their despatch was not published, the public had no means of knowing the nature of those recommendations. In reviewing Sir Alfred Croft's report on the progress of public instruction in India during the last five years, the Government of Lord Dufferin announced a new educational policy. The people were distinctly told that although the state of education was not so satisfactory as it should be, the money granted by Government to aid public instruction would be of the nature of a vanishing fraction, constantly diminishing and becoming beautifully less till it disappeared altogether. The new educational policy was the policy of withdrawal—the policy of shirking responsibility, which filled the people of India with misgivings. The question of improving the sanitary condition of India was also taken up by the Government of India and a Resolution was recorded. The document was altogether disappointing, as it did not grapple with two of the three most formidable difficulties in the way of promoting sanitation in this country. The Government of India, in dealing with this important subject failed to realize that no real or permanent sanitary improvement could ever be looked for in India unless the material condition of the masses had been so far improved as to enable them to live better and to wear suitable clothing according to the seasons; that it was idle to pretend that they persisted in their present unhealthy practices merely from habit, and that until the people could provide themselves with wholesome food and suitable clothing it would be sheer waste of time and energy to lay stress on their insanitary surroundings or their pernicious habits. Lord Dufferin had set on foot an enquiry into the extent to which leprosy prevailed in India with a view to the adoption of measures for effectually stamping out the disease. But after the enquiry was completed the Supreme Government came to the conclusion that medical science has as yet discovered no cure for leprosy. In reviewing the Provincial Reports on Jail administration for 1887 the Government of India impressed on the Local Governments the necessity for more attention by jail authorities to the allotment of task work in such a manner that the convict might reasonably be expected to perform his allotted task during the day and thus escape punishment; for discrimination in the award of punishments; and for insanitary conditions in jails predisposing to disease. A Committee consisting of Drs. Walker and Lethbridge was appointed to enquire into jail administration throughout India. The results of the enquiry into the material condition of the masses which had been instituted under the orders of Lord Dufferin were published last year. The Government of India, considering these results, came to the conclusion that measures should be adopted with a view to promote emigra-

tion from the densely-crowded tracts in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh to the sparsely inhabited districts of Upper Burma. Shortly before his departure from India, Lord Dufferin publicly announced in his speech at the St. Andrew's Dinner that he had submitted to the Home authorities some personal suggestions on the lines indicated in his Lordship's famous utterances on the occasion of her gracious Majesty's Jubilee, for the expansion of the Legislative Councils.

PROVINCIAL.

The General Administration of the Provinces was carried on during the past year, as before, on the lines already laid down, and there was not much to distinguish it from the ordinary run of events. In Bengal several cases of official oppression or misconduct were as usual brought to light. Mr. Posford, the District Judge of Backergunge, took proceedings against some of the pleaders practising in his Court, because they had given him offence in their capacity of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the Barrisal Municipality. The proceedings were quashed by the High Court, and the papers of the case were sent up to the Local Government. Sir Steuart Bayley transferred Mr. Posford from Backergunge to the neighbouring district of Tipperah. His Honor took serious notice of the conduct of Mr. Kirkwood, Sessions Judge of Patna, who had committed a wanton outrage on a poor girl subjecting her person to medical examination, and made him retire from the service. But in the Tangail case Sir Steuart justified the high-handed and illegal proceedings of the Sub-divisional officer. In the case of Mr. Bushby, Surveyor to the Port Commissioners, who had accepted a fee of Rs. 1,000 from the owners of the ill-fated steamer *Sir John Lawrence*, the Lieutenant-Governor also failed to mete out adequate punishment. His Honor merely required Mr. Bushby to refund the money he had received. Early in the year the Bengal Government deputed Mr. Westmacott to enquire into the practical working of the out-still system in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah. The enquiry showed that the complaints made were well-founded, and that drinking had been much encouraged by the cheapening of liquor and the facilities offered by existing arrangement for procuring it. Sir Steuart declared in plain terms that unless the out still system was worked with the safeguards suggested by the Excise Commission, it would be impossible to justify its continuance. The same view was repeated in stronger language by the Lieutenant-Governor in his review of the Excise Administration Report for 1887-88. His Honor also took up the question of Coolie emigration and deputed Mr. Tucker to enquire into the evils of the system of recruitment. The Lieutenant-Governor's summer tour in Eastern and Western Bengal and his autumn tour in Orissa enabled him to see many important parts of the Province with his own eyes. The tour in Orissa was undertaken with a view to make arrangements for famine relief and it produced good results. Several districts in Bengal suffered from floods and relief was promptly administered. The Government of Bengal took up for consideration the question as to whether anything could be done for the relief of the tracts which are liable to inundation. A Provincial Conference was held in the British Indian Association Rooms in October at which some important questions of local interest were discussed. The addition of a third Native Judge to the Calcutta High Court and the selection of the Hon'ble Dr. Guru Das Bannerji for the post gave great satisfaction to the Native community, not only in Bengal but throughout India. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Sir Auckland Colvin who had succeeded Sir Alfred Lyall in the closing weeks of the previous year, held a series of Durbars at the head-quarters of each Division and exhorted the assembled Native gentlemen to do their best to make the Local Self-Government Scheme a success. In other respects, Sir Auckland, in the first year of his administration, contented himself with merely carrying on the routine work of his office. His Honor, however, appointed two Native officers—Kunwar Bharat Singh and Mirza Abbas Ali—to act as District officers for short periods. These

were first appointments of the kind in the United Provinces and gave great satisfaction to the Native community. There were disturbances at Agra, Ghazipore and Najibabad in connection with the Moharrum; but the local authorities promptly and vigorously suppressed them. At Najibabad the riots were attended with loss of life, for which, however, the officials were not in any way to blame. As the fourth Congress was held at Allahabad, this great national movement naturally excited much interest in the United Provinces during the past year. Anti-Congress and pro-Congress meetings were held in various parts of the Provinces and it was generally believed that the opponents of the Congress received secret encouragement from Anglo-Indian officials.

In the Punjab, Sir James Lyall earned the gratitude of the Native community by putting one Indian gentleman in charge of a district temporarily and by nominating another for a seat on the bench of the Chief Court. Unfortunately this nomination was not confirmed and a Civilian was ultimately appointed. The great Bribery case of Lahore created much excitement in the Punjab in the earlier months of last year. Mr. Larpent, Deputy Accountant-General of the Province, had been accused in his capacity of Registrar of the Punjab University of having received illegal gratification from candidates for University degrees. A Commission was appointed by the Government of India to enquire into the charges brought against Mr. Larpent and he was dismissed the service. The passing of the Punjab Courts Amendment Act of which mention has been made in another column, created much dissatisfaction in the Province.

In Madras, Lord Connemara continued to win golden opinions from all classes and sections of the community with whom he came in contact in the course of his official tours. His lordship's public utterances showed that he entertained sound views on the question of agricultural reform in this country. He appointed a Committee to enquire into the constitution and working of the Provincial Agricultural Department with a view of ascertaining what practical work it had done during the period of its existence, and what good such a Department might do under other conditions. The Madras Christian College mutiny and the measures adopted by its authorities in connection therewith, and the Tellichery Calicut bribery cases which ended in the conviction and imprisonment of a Native Subordinate Judge and Deputy Collector respectively, naturally received much public attention. The Christian College mutiny caused a great deal of excitement in the Hindu community and moved them to enquire as to what action they should take in the educational movement of the country, and a scheme for establishing a Hindu Theological College was matured. Towards the close of the year the failure of the crops produced many serious grain riots attended with loss of life. Great progress was made during the past year in founding a Technical Institute in Madras to commemorate the Jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign.

In the Western Presidency, Lord Reay continued to do good work, though his lordship's popularity suffered to some extent by his hasty action in the Crawford case. Charges of corruption having been preferred against Mr. Arthur Crawford, Commissioner of the Central Division, the Bombay Government suspended him from office and determined to prosecute him criminally. This determination was afterwards abandoned and a Commission was appointed under the Presidency of Mr. Justice Wilson of the Calcutta High Court to enquire into the charges against Mr. Crawford. The Commission had not concluded its labours when the year closed. Some of the Judges of the Bombay High Court protested against the retention in service of men who in their evidence before the Crawford Commission had confessed to having obtained their appointments by corrupt means. The Victoria Technical Institute was opened in the building formerly occupied by the Elphinstone College and it supplied a deeply-felt want. Lord Reay publicly expressed his sympathy with the Congress movement and hailed it as an agency for the reform of the existing system of administration. A Provincial Conference was held

at Poona in the autumn for the discussion of question of local interest. In the minor Provinces nothing of any particular importance occurred during the past year. The task of pacifying Upper Burma was vigorously carried on by Sir Charles Crosthwaite in concert with the military authorities, and to facilitate the accomplishment of this object the whole Province was disarmed. The Moylan case created a sensation not only in Burma, but also in India, as it was generally believed that the Recorder of Rangoon had struck off Mr. Moylan's name from the list of Advocates practicing in his court because he had become a thorn on the side of the authorities by his fearless exposure of their high-handed proceedings in the columns of the *Times*. Mr. Moylan appealed to the Calcutta High Court which reversed the Recorder's order and directed his reinstatement. In Assam Mr. Dennis Fitzpatrick continued to repair the mischief which had been wrought by his immediate predecessor Mr. Ward. In the Central Provinces Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, as usual, applied himself with great energy and zeal to the task of reforming administrative abuses. He gave evidence of his warm sympathies and friendly sentiments towards the people entrusted to his rule by watching carefully the operation of the Arms Act, and the practical working of the Local Self-Government Scheme which he, in his capacity of Home Secretary to the Government of India, had so ably helped Lord Ripon to initiate.

GENERAL.

THE National Association founded by Her Excellency the Marchioness of Dufferin for supplying female medical aid to the women of India, was placed on a stable and secure basis last year. On the eve of her departure from India Lady Dufferin reviewed the work done by the Association during the three years of its existence. Her Excellency handed over the charge of the Fund bearing her honoured name to the Marchioness of Lansdowne in a highly flourishing condition. The Report of the Third National Congress which had met at Madras under the presidency of Mr. Budruddia Tyebji was published last year, and it was read with deep interest by the educated Natives throughout the country and their friends in England. The publication of this Report induced Sir Auckland Colvin to formulate his objections against the Congress movement, which he did in a letter addressed to Mr. Allan Hume, who in replying to the same conclusively showed that the objections were based on a misapprehension of the aims and objects of the great national movement. With a view to counteract the Congress movement, Sir Syed Ahmed founded a Society under the name of the "United Indian Patriotic Association," and with the same object an association under the name of "the Indian Loyal Association" was established at Lucknow through the exertions of Raja Siva Prasad and Munshi Newal Kishore. The assembling of a Railway Conference at Simla created high hopes that the discomforts to which the lower classes of railway passengers in this country are subjected would be removed; but these hopes were grievously disappointed. In the spring of last year certain important reforms in the marriage customs of the Rajputs were introduced. The last week of the past year was rendered memorable by the assembling of the Fourth National Congress at Allahabad attended by about 1,400 delegates from the various parts of the country and presided over by Mr. George Yule of Calcutta.

CALCUTTA.

The Town Hall demonstration in honour of Lord Dufferin, made by his friends and admirers, previous to his lordship's departure for Simla in the spring was very successful. It had at one time been contemplated to hold a counter-demonstration; but this idea was wisely abandoned. The agitation against the new Calcutta Municipal Bill pervaded all ranks and classes of the Native community in the Town and Suburbs. The objectionable features of the measure were clearly pointed out and strongly condemned. An influential meeting was held at the Town Hall to protest against the action of the Bengal Legislative Council in rejecting all amendments moved by the Native members, and a deputation, waited on the Lieutenant-Governor. But His Honor's reply to the deputation was

keenly disappointing. Sir Stuart Bayley's utterances made it clear beyond the shadow of a doubt that the passing of the Bill was a foregone conclusion. The rate-payers of Calcutta and the Suburbs submitted a memorial to the Governor-General praying His Excellency to veto the Bill; and the British Indian Association urged the same prayer, on the ground that the Bill as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council was *ultra vires*. But no heed whatever was paid to these prayers. Mr. Cotton's project for a Central Road from the Howrah Bridge to Sealdah was approved by a majority of the Municipal Commissioners; but owing to want of sufficient funds, the scheme did not much progress towards completion. Previous to his departure for Simla in the spring Lord Dufferin visited some of the filthiest portions of Calcutta and impressed upon the Corporation through the Government of Bengal the necessity of improving their sanitary condition. The patricide case and the wife-murder case created much excitement among the Native community. The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science under the able guidance of the Hon'ble Dr. Mohendralal Sirkar, did, as usual, much useful work during the past year. The foundering of the *Ostrich* within the limits of the Port and of the *Mongola* in its immediate neighbourhood caused a considerable loss of human life and cast a gloom over Calcutta and its vicinity.

OBITUARY.

It is now our painful duty to record the names of the distinguished men who were gathered to their fathers during the past year, and the list is, unhappily, an unusually long one. Europe lost the greatest of its reigning monarchs in Emperor William I of Germany, the founder of the modern German Empire. His Majesty's successor, Emperor Frederick also died a few months after his accession to the Imperial throne. Germany was thus twice bereft within a short period of a much-beloved ruler. England lost an eminent scientist in Sir Charles Bright, who had a world-wide reputation as an electrician and inventor, and who had completed telegraphic communication between India and Europe by constructing the cable which connects Karachi with the head of the Persian Gulf. She also lost a celebrated poet, critic and educationist in Mathew Arnold, who was engaged in a life-long struggle with the ignorance and prejudice surrounding him; a distinguished soldier in the Earl of Lucan; a famous astronomer in Mr. R. A. Proctor; and a renowned Orientalist and traveller in Mr. W. G. Palgrave; an accomplished statistician in Professor Leon Levi, who was the founder of English Chambers of Commerce; a warm-hearted philanthropist in Mr. F. W. Chesson, and a well-known traveller and brilliant author in Mr. Lawrence Oliphant. Mr. F. W. Chesson was not only a sincere friend of the people of India to whom his death was an irreparable loss, but he had, as Secretary to the Aborigines Protection Society, prompted most of the measures taken in and out of Parliament to ameliorate the condition of unrepresented races in different parts of the world. The death of Lord Eversley deprived England of the Nestor of her House of Lords, while in Mr. Lawrence Oliphant it lost one of its finest intellects and most gifted writers. By the death of the Earl of Lucan, one of the central figures of the Crimean War passed away. Russia lost an eminent scientist and traveller in General Prejevalsky, whose death was a severe loss not to the Russian nation only, but to the whole civilized world. Of distinguished Anglo-Indians who were gathered to their fathers during the past year, we may mention the names of Sir Henry Maine, for many years Law Member of the Viceroy's Council and Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, of Mr. W. G. Pedder, formerly of the Bombay Civil Service, of the Rev. George Bowen, Editor of the *Bombay Guardian*, of Sir Frank Souter, the able and energetic Police Commissioner of the town of Bombay; and of Mr. Andrew Dalgleish, the enterprising Central Asian traveller. America lost in General Sheridan one of the most conspicuous figures in the Civil War between the North and the South, and England was deprived of good friends by the deaths of Sir James Henry Brand, President of the Orange Free State, of Syep

Turki, Sultan of Muscat and Syed of Burgasn, Sultan of Zanzibar. India lost two of her feudatory Chiefs last year, the Maharaja of Cochin and the Jam of Lus Bujla. In Bengal the Native community had to mourn the deaths of Babu Joy kissen Mukerjee of Uttarparah, Raja Shama Nund Dey of Balasore, Raja Ishwari Prasad Gurga of Maisadal, Rai Jodu Nath Rai of Krishnagar, Jai Krishna Bahadoor of Patna, Babu Chunder, Kumar Roy of Narail, of Messrs. C. Mullick, and R. K. Sen and Dr. Bhugwan Chunder Rudra, of Calcutta; in the North-Western Provinces, those of Munshi Hanuman Prasad and Rai Sankata Prasad of Benares; in the Punjab those of Sardar Ajit Singh and Pundit Behary Lal of Amritsur, Roy Kanhiya Lal Bahadoor of Lahore; in Bombay, those of Dr. Bhugwan Lal Indrajit, the celebrated Orientalist, Mr. Panjabhoy, the acknowledged head of the Bhoja community, and Mr. M. M. Kunte, the well-known Head Master of Poona High School; in Madras those of Mr. C. P. Lutchmi Pati Naidu, Barrister-at-Law and Mr. Justice Narayana Pillay of the Travancore High Court. The Native Church in India lost one of her oldest and most respected members in the Rev. Guru Das Mitra.

CONCLUSION.

The above is necessarily an imperfect retrospect of the past year. It was a year of suffering, sorrow and anxiety. May the new year under God's blessing prove more prosperous and happy!

AN UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE.

MEPHISTOPHELES is making the most of an unfortunate mistake that has been committed by the Subject Committee of the last National Congress. It appears that sometime ago a draft of rules was circulated for the opinion of persons interested in the Congress, and the British Indian Association gave expression to its opinion, pointing out certain subjects which needed definite rules. One of the suggestions of the Association was not adopted, and, in advertent to it, the *Pioneer* thus delivers itself:

"We wrote on Saturday of a Resolution that was at that time proposed for adoption by the National Congress, which, in effect, would have disclaimed its sympathy with Mr. Hume's seditious pamphlets, and limited the responsibility of the Congress for any thing done outside the recognised area of its formal operations. Although such a Resolution must needs, at this stage, have been more or less ineffective, its mere adoption would have been beneficial to the movement and discouragement to certain obnoxious people connected with it, for which reason we regard that the proposal, though put before the managers of the affair, was rejected by a large majority. The British Indian Association, to whom, we believe, the conception of the proposal was mainly due, deserve none the less honour that it was defeated, and should the incident lead to the secession of that influential body from the Congress, we shall be prepared to congratulate them."

The animus apparent on the face of this against Mr. Hume is manifest, and the *Indian Daily News* improves upon it, by commenting on it with the remark about "the proposal from an influential quarter to disclaim Mr. Hume's mischievous literary efforts was one." The object in either case is to set the British Indian Association and Mr. Hume by the ears, and as such the remarks are unworthy of being noticed. Inasmuch, however, as there is a *vrai-semblance* in the case, it is as well to explain to our readers how the matter really stands. When the idea of Leaflets and Pamphlets was first originated in 1885, the British Indian Association, who contributed funds for the purpose, took particular care to obtain from the Bombay Congress Committee a promise that "the information published will only concern those matters on which all of our countrymen who pay attention to such questions are generally agreed, and will not, it is proposed, deal with any matter such as the Bengal Tenancy Act, on which there is a wide divergence of opinion amongst ourselves. It seems to us that in this way we secure a common platform on which all Indian politicians may meet together." The pledge, however, was not carefully kept, and in one of the leaflets, there was a gross breach of it, and the Secretaries of the Congress, viz. Messrs. Mehta, Telang and Wacha, had to express their regret for

it. At the Calcutta Congress no Pamphlet appeared, but in the subsequent one at Madras there were several on the merits of which the Association expressed no opinion whatever. In their letter, however, on the amendment of the rules, the Committee of the Association in advertent to these pamphlets, said:

"Some of the publications which have been issued in the name of the Congress have given rise to misconceptions. It is frequently affirmed that the views of these publications are in every instance and in every detail the matured views of the Congress as a united body. Such is obviously not the case; but misconceptions having arisen and that even in such high quarters as the Study of the Lieutenant Governor of the N. W. Provinces and the Council Chamber of the Governor General of India, it is imperatively necessary to guard against the evil. My Committee do not for a moment desire to enter here into the merits of the publications. But they think that under the political condition of the country, it is prudent to take measures to avoid as much as possible all causes of needless irritation and misconceptions. They think that the Congress or Congresses should confine themselves to the deliberation of those matters only which are previously notified and formally submitted to them, and to such expression of opinion regarding them as the delegates or a great majority of them formally recommend at a meeting. This might to a certain extent tie the hands of the delegates, but that would be better than misconceptions which might very much cripple, if not endanger, the existence of the Congress."

Even Father Loyola would, we fancy, fail to detect any attempt at any thing like disclaiming Mr. Hume's "mischievous literary efforts," and the Association did nothing of the kind. Mr. Hume fully approved of the suggestion, and in his reply to the Association, proposed the following draft resolution, which he undertook, if necessary, to move himself:—

"Resolved, that to obviate any possible misconceptions, it be formally put on record that the members of each Congress are responsible solely for the resolutions passed thereat and are in no way responsible for any publications that have been or may be issued by any local standing Congress Committees or by individual supporters of the Congress movement."

Of course Mr. Hume was required by the rules of the Reception Committee to take the opinion of the Subject Committee, but a great majority of the latter body declined to have any thing to do with it. Their objection was based on two grounds: 1st, that it was mere surplusage, as the thing was so obvious that no one could make any mistake on the subject; and 2nd that it would throw Mr. Hume overboard. On the face of it the first objection is a mere begging of the question. The letter of the British Indian Association showed clearly that such authorities as the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces thought differently, and to meet the argument with such a word as 'surplusage' is a poor shift at best. The second argument conjures up a Jonah which no body ever thought of. The apprehension, however, of giving the slightest offence to Mr. Hume overpowered the faculty of reasoning in the Subject Committee. They failed to see the matter in its common sense light, and, leaving a very disputatious point open to further wrangling, rushed to the very thing they apprehended. They threw overboard the promise of Mr. Hume and made him a promise-breaker in public by their mistaken assiduity to give him no offence where none was meant. The majority of the Subject Committee have in this respect committed a mistake which is worse than a crime. Already the crop of criticism in the *Pioneer*, and the *Indian Daily News* is exceedingly unpleasant, and others will no doubt follow, which will do no good to the Congress movement. We are pained to make these remarks, but our regard for Mr. Hume and our desire to see justice done to the British Indian Association leave us no alternative.

THE LAST SHOWER OF TITLES.

THE New Year'sday Honors Gazette shunned the light of day, and appeared on the night of the 1st instant. This was deemed necessary for its own sake. As the last act of the late Viceroy (for we cannot believe it to be a work of Lord Lansdowne) it is a case of bringing

up arrears before the new Government should really be in working order. The original idea with which the different Orders were started was the recognition of extraordinary merits in Her Majesty's Indian subjects, but that idea has long since been abandoned. The theory now seems to be that they are perquisites for the official world, a few stray crumbs being occasionally thrown out to the people to keep up appearances. At least this is the only way in which we can account for the intensely official character of the Honors lists of the last ten years. In Europe some high offices have titles attached to them, but the officers do not look upon them as their personal perquisites. In England men of the highest ability have served Her Majesty as Ministers, but never claimed or got, *qua*-Ministers, any personal title. A Gladstone may serve as the Prime Minister of England and be unquestionably the ablest statesman in his country, but he remains a Mr. and nothing more. In India however the viceregal moon cannot do without a host of starry satellites, and the glory of his court cannot be kept up without a plentiful shower twice every year, of stars and badges among his satraps and the Members of his Council and Secretaries. Of course, men who attain the rank of Members and Secretaries are mostly officers of some ability and fitness for work, and if every officer of some ability claims a knighthood or a companionship it would be as well to make knighthoods and companionships permanent appenages of their offices. It is a farce to call them special marks of distinction. In the case of men who have been long since dead to the Indian world, they are worse still. They are barefaced favors which mark the partiality and personal leaning of the giver, and nothing more. For instance, we have in the last list the name of a Judge who served in this country for just such a period as would qualify him for a pension, and retired ten years ago without leaving anything but an insignificant law primer to keep his name alive in this country, and he comes in at this late hour for a knighthood, we suppose, to keep his Readership of Hindu law warm and rosy. Mr. Justice Cunningham's case is not so bad. He has left the country five years ago, and has been doing his utmost to set his countrymen against the natives of India and to explain away the solemn promises made in the august proclamation of Our Gracious Sovereign as a mere claptrap or a figure of rhetoric having no binding force at all. This was done in order to suit the views of the late Viceroy, and a knighthood for such service was what was fully expected under the circumstances. It does not certainly add lustre to the Order of which he has become a member. No; he has other claims on the gratitude of the Indians. To him we owe the "chronicles of Dustypore," the "Coeruleans" and the "Theseus and Ariadne" lectures on Sanitation. At different times he also brought out *rech auffs* of Law Commentaries, which were more than amply compensated by the publisher's fees, and for which he would never have dreamed of a C. B.-ship in his native land. The *rech auffs* relate mostly to English law and do not concern the people of this country. Considering the inactivity of the Natives of Bengal during the last March demonstration for a statue in honor of Lord Dufferin no one need be surprised that Bengalee names should be limited in the list of knighthoods to that of Maharaja Krishna Pertab Sahai, of Hatwah, who distinguished himself by subscribing Rs. 5000 for that statue. The jokist in the *Englishman's Saturday Evening Journal* opines that it is intended "to prove a source of satisfaction to that dignitary, and among other reasons, it places him in the same rank with his friends the Maharajas of Doomraon, Bettiah and Durbhanga. Not a bad hit this. We shall say nothing about the companionship of the lowest order of merit—that of the Indian Empire, nor of the native titles given this year. Amongst the recipients of the last we notice the names of Raja Boikuntha Nath Dey of Balasore, of Raja Baidyanath Pundit of Orissa, and Raja Sashisekharesvar Roy of Tahirpur, whom we wish to congratulate on their newly earned honors. The Pandits of Bengal did not join the demonstration of March last, and their names do not occur in the list. The Muhammadans did, and some of their Maulavis have earned the coveted title of Samsh-ul-Ilm.

We have been requested to announce that a meeting will be held at the Town Hall at 4 o'clock, on Saturday the 12th instant, under the presidency of the Hon'ble Raja Durga Charan Law, C.I.E., when Mr. Caine, M. P., will deliver an address on the Excise System in India. The meeting will be open to the public.

On dit that on Mr. Reynold's retirement next month Sir Henry Harrison will take his place at the Board of Revenue, leaving the Municipal Chairmanship to Mr. Bolton. Sir Henry already appears to be sick of his new clients for whose sake he cast overboard his old Fridays, who were, with rare exceptions, so docile to him. At the last meeting of the Municipality the new clientele showed their fangs to an extent which the Fridays never dared to do. Mr. Bolton served long in the Behar province under Sir Stuart Bayley and is trusted by him.

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FOURTH INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.
It is feared that the names of some of the delegates who attended the Fourth National Congress at Allahabad from Bengal, Assam and Orissa were not registered at the Congress Office or that their papers have been lost. The undersigned therefore requests one and all the above delegates to be good enough to send him at once their names in full with honorary titles, scholastic degrees, etc, caste, religious denomination, occupation, address, place or places, or associations which they represented at the Congress and how and when they were elected, also their delegates ticket numbers. If the names of those who fail to comply with this request are not found in the report of the Congress it will not be owing to any fault of

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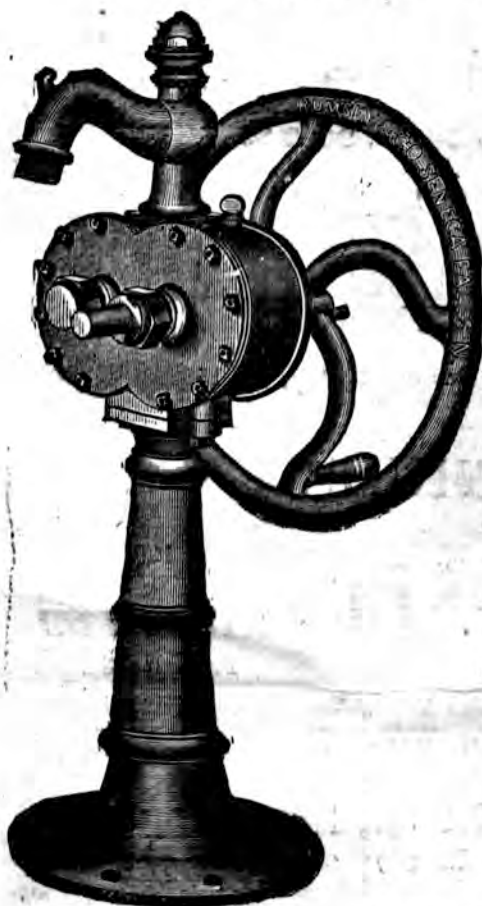
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